

Urban League of Essex County Update

Fall 1994



Congratulations Newly Elected 1994-95 NULITES Officers!!!



Kakisha Green, Treasurer and Tarif Davis, Vice President

Shakena Appiah, President

Shakena Appiah is 17 years old and is a 12th grader at East Orange High School. Ms. Appiah helps staff organize NULITES' activities, program curriculum and field trips. She is the liaison between staff and NULITERS. As an East Orange co-op student, she is also gaining valuable work experience in office procedures working with Urban League administrative staff. "As NULITES president I enjoy working with the Urban League staff and meeting new people at our workshops. This position is challenging and so are our goals for 1995, but I have confidence in myself to do a good job" said Ms. Appiah about her new position. Ms. Appiah is also Editor-In-Chief of the NULITES newsletter and her school newspaper.

Tarif Davis, Vice President

Tarif Davis is 15 years old and in 10th grade at Science High School in Newark. He is responsible for assisting Ms. Appiah with her presidential duties as well as implementing several NULITES' projects in 1995. Mr. Davis said, "I will help my partner Shakena do the best job we can. We (NULITERS) want to go to the National Urban League youth conference this summer, so we must make sure we do our fund-raisers and other projects well. 1995 promises to be a good year." Mr. Davis has been a NULITES participant since Fall of 1993 and appeared as a guest on Positively Black (WNBC-TV) in September, where he discussed our NULITES Operation Brightside summer youth employment and education program.

Michelle Samuels, Secretary

Michelle Samuels is 16 years old and in 10th grade at Chad Science Academy. As NULITES secretary she will record minutes for meetings and handle NULITES correspondences. Ms. Samuels said "I really enjoy working with my fellow NULITERS. I am gaining valuable team-work experience which I am sure will be useful in future endeavors."

Kakisha Green, Treasurer

Kakisha Green is 14 years old and in 10th grade at Essex County Vocational High School. She is responsible for all NULITES fiscal records. Her first major project was keeping the books and inventory during the Cultural Holiday and Kwanzaa fund-raiser. When asked about her experience, Ms. Green said, "I appreciate being here at the Urban League and meeting new people. I am experiencing new things and it feels good to achieve our goals. Our fund-raisers will help NULITERS go to the National Urban League youth conference this summer, so it is important to maintain good records."

The NULITES youth leadership program prepares Essex County youths for academic and civic leadership in the 21st Century. Youths engage in computer literacy, educational enrichment, cultural enhancement, and public policy and youth advocacy training. Ann Marie Benderson is the NULITES coordinator.

Congratulations NULITERS!!

Your Dream Home Could Be A Notebook Away!!

Homebuyers Course Success Story!

Congratulations to the Smith family for successfully purchasing a home. They recently settled into their new home, located in East Orange, in mid-September.

The Smith family were students in one of the Urban League's Homebuyer Education Course in May of this year. "The class was extremely helpful and well worth the \$25. I got to meet and network with several key people such as HUD representatives and mortgage lenders in a comfortable atmosphere," said Mrs. Smith. The course teaches homebuyers procedures for locating and purchasing a home. The Smiths used the knowledge to make their dream come true. "I got the information I needed on a variety of mortgage programs and found the best one to fit our needs" explained Mrs. Smith.

The Urban League's housing initiative is to educate African Americans on obtaining financial stability through the purchase of a home. "There are many external pressures when shopping for a home and David Stephens (homebuyer course instructor) really covered all the relevant information we needed. The paperwork alone is tremendous and the class helped us through the process" commented Mrs. Smith. She further stated "many people do not think they can just go out and buy a house. I applaud the Urban League's effort to empower the African American community with the knowledge they need to realize their dreams."

**Congratulations to the Smith Family
for realizing their dream!!**

Introducing Junior NULITES
For children ages 6-13 years, page 2.

Not in Class

ACCOLADES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Editorial by Lydia Davis Barrett, President/CEO

January through March we pay special attention to the history, struggle and contributions of American blacks and women. Our review typically ranges from academic projects and community celebrations to commercial television programs and even ads.

Many of these efforts feel good because they take a surface or innocuous approach. We teach children about Dr. King's dream, but gloss over his actual battles for justice. We applaud blacks who obtain coveted positions, but we fall short in voicing our expectations of how the individuals in those jobs will support continued social and economic progress.

Thirty years of this should prompt us to take another view of what we are celebrating and why. While some blacks who won elected or appointed positions due to the Civil Rights struggles have made a difference, some others have done little. We have black men and women presiding over the rape and ruin of urban school systems and the educational assassination of our children. We have African Americans and women with community service records one inch long invoking the name of Dr. King and Malcolm X as they accept patronage jobs to help those who seek to erode our gains. Should these individuals be entitled to receive the same tributes (and money) as those upon whose shoulders and graves they stand?

The slaves and civil rights warriors sang "keep your eyes on the prize", not as a theme song for a tv documentary, but as a reminder that it is the goal that counts. For example, the goal in the 1954 Supreme Court school desegregation case was not integration for its own sake. The goal of the original plaintiffs was access to the facilities, books, and teachers that constitute quality education - a fundamental tool to integrate into mainstream opportunities.

Resounding speeches, gospelramas, rituals and fake Kente cloth draped over designer suits are not the prizes for which we fought and died. African-American men and women holding us hostage in public or private jobs "in the name of blackness", without accountability to use their authority to ensure justice, do not represent any change from the oppression of white privilege. Should we continue ritual awards to uplift skin color and gender while we politely suppress the tough questions about accountability that nag our hearts and minds?

During this season of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, African-American History Month, International Womens' History Month, and Holocaust Observance, let us remember - accolades and awards require accountability to achieve measureable strides towards the goals of the movements and struggles that brought us this far.

Announcing Jr. NULITES After-School Program!!

The Junior NULITES program teaches computer literacy skills and provides a safe after-school environment for children ages 6-13 years old. The program is licensed by the state and includes two state certified teachers.



**Monday through Friday
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

Schedule of Daily Activities
After-school snack
Homework period
Computer Lab (2 days per week)
Educational Games
Cultural & Educational Field Trips

For additional information or to register
call (201) 733-9313 or (201) 624-9535.



Looking for a Mortgage Lender?

Urban League Hosts Its First Community Bank Night!!

The Urban League recently hosted homebuyer education programs in Montclair and Irvington as part of our community outreach efforts. These programs provided potential first-time homebuyers with information they need to make better informed choices.

In October, our Homebuyer Education Class and Seminar were held at the WARIS Educational & Cultural Research Center in Irvington. 92 attended the October 13th free seminar, which covered six steps to better homebuying and the mortgage approval process. November 1, 12 students attended and graduated from the Homebuyer Education Course.

Through our Housing Education courses the Urban League has provided pre-mortgage seminars and courses to over 376 potential homebuyers this year. The course includes lessons in shopping for a home, the REAL mortgage approval process, how to improve your chances of homeownership, property selection and pricing, purchase procedures, and pre- and post-occupancy maintenance. The final phase of our housing effort is to provide networking opportunities between banks/mortgage lenders and African American homebuyers. Our Community Bank Night is part of that networking effort. Our housing initiative is part of National Urban League's goal to assist families in achieving self-sufficiency. Homeowners pay taxes and have a stake in making their communities, elected officials and schools work for them.

On November 29th, the Urban League sponsored a "Community Bank Night" at the Y.M.C.A. of East Orange. Banks and mortgage companies attended the event to educate potential homebuyers on a wide variety of mortgage products and services. Attendees also learned about Mortgages insured by the government agency known as "FANNIE MAE".

The next Homebuyers Course will begin January 17 at the East Orange YMCA. For more information or to register call 201-746-7725.



Lucy Harrington Lee Volunteer Extraordinaire

by Barbara Kukla

Exerpts reprinted from the Star Ledger, October 3, 1994

For more than five decades Lucy Harrington Lee has selflessly devoted her energies to a broad swath of volunteer activities that made life easier for thousands of people who live in Newark and the surrounding area. Over the years, Lee has spear-headed scores of fund-raising activities for the Urban League of Essex County, arranged luncheons and speakers for 20 hospitals as a "master auxilian" for the NJ Hospital Association, and has been at the forefront of key events at several churches.

She helped establish the Newark Board of Education's Teenage Pregnancy Program for girls at Chestnut St. School and mentored a group of girls whose children are now in college. "Of all the people I've known over the years, there's no one more deserving than Lucy Lee," said Connie Woodruff. "In an age where money and egoism motivates people, Lucy is the epitome of the true spirit of the community volunteer," said Woodruff.

Born in Carthage, NC the youngest child of Ada and John Henry Harrington, she graduated from a one-room school house operated by the Presbyterian Church, then completed classes at Scotia Women's College in Concord, NC. Her entry into the world of volunteerism began in her youth when she taught knitting and crocheting to a group of elderly women at the YMWCA in the Warren St. area, where her family first lived after coming to Newark. Early in her volunteering years, she found that many mothers were busy on Saturdays and their children didn't have much to do. "So I began organizing again," she said, taking a group of girls ages 10 to 12 on outings and trips to places including Martha's Vineyard and the Jersey Shore. "All these girls are married now and have children who are in college," she said. "One of them, Sybil Moses, just received her PhD." For many years she was part of a neighborhood effort to gather clothes and help relocate people who were burned out of their homes or were struggling otherwise.

She was a fixture as well at the Friendly Fuld Neighborhood Center which operated after-school, child care and Head Start programs under the umbrella of the Community Agencies Corp. After joining the Urban League of Essex County in 1947, when Harold Lett was the director, Lee pitched in to help with the clerical work, conducted house-to-house membership drives and planned a variety of fund-raising events. From 1968-70 she was president of the Urban League Guild. She also served eight years on the League's board- the first guild president to be accorded that honor. As part of the fund-raising efforts, "We brought Ella Fitzgerald to Seton Hall University for a concert and Cab Calloway and Maynard Ferguson to Symphony Hall," she said. "In 1969, we hosted 1,100 people for a show at the Flagship in Union starring Gladys Knight and the Pips."

Over the years Lee has served as a guiding light for the Urban League's Equal Opportunity Day fund-raising dinner and introduced the Guild's cookbook, "Simple Pleasures," now in its second edition. As an outgrowth of the cookbook, the guild has sponsored annual "Cook's Tours" to showcase African-Americans homes. "We want to show what African-Americans are doing and the way they live," she explains.

"One of the most important programs I've been involved in was conducting the educational health program for girls at Chestnut St. School," she added. "With the help of Kathleen Cinotti, who recruited professional speakers, 300 girls learned about health and social problems. Unfortunately the school closed several years ago." Lee conducted the East Orange Campaign for the United Community Fund of Essex and West Hudson, now known as the United Way. And she volunteered for years for the American Cancer Society.

Newark's "volunteer extraordinaire" also has longtime ties to the University of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ. Concerns about health in the black community prompted her to join the Martland Hospital Auxiliary years ago.

Lee spearheaded the campaign to have Janet Pickett create a mural at University Hospital. She is a member of the Champions which raises funds for scholarships for medical students and is a longtime member of the university's Board of Concerned Citizens.

Asked how she found times as a working woman to be as involved as she has been over the years, she again credited the agencies for "always being willing to help." With a knowing smile, she added, "If you want to get something done, ask someone who's busy." In retrospect, her only concern is that "young people often have negative feelings about older people." "Often they plunge ahead and do things wrong rather than tap into a wealth of information," she said. On October 14, 1994, Lucy Lee was honored at a testimonial dinner at the Friar Tuck Inn in Cedar Grove.

Pictured below, Lucy Lee with a few of her community service awards.



photo by Eddie Salasam

Urban League Guild Announcements!!!

The Guild will host a membership meeting and reception on Sunday, January 8, at the East Orange Public Library, 21 South Arlington Ave., from 2pm to 4pm. The meeting will provide information for new members about 1995's calendar of events and programs offered by the Guild.

The Guild is our volunteer auxiliary which interprets Urban League programs to the community, initiates service projects, and supports the League through fundraising activities. The Guild meets every first Saturday of each month at 10 am, Urban League Headquarters, 508 Central Ave., Newark. Meeting dates for the first half of 1995 are:

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3. For more information call 201-676-4604 or 201-733-3355. For Guild membership information call 201-673-3166.

Do you know a teen in foster care?

The Urban League has openings in its NULITES Independent Living Skills (ILS) program for teens aging out of the foster care system. The ILS program teaches the social and civic skills necessary for productive and independent adult life.

Course curriculum includes:

Computer Literacy

Educational Enrichment

Employment Readiness

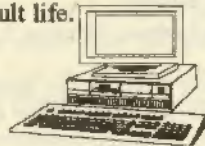
Personal Life Management Skills

Cultural Field Trips

Community Service Projects



Free!! Call (201) 624-9535!!



Left to right, Randy Nelson, Board Chair, Valerie Crump, Accounting Assistant, Zoraya Lee-Hamlin, Director of Research & Marketing, Raymond L. Hamlin, Esq., Volunteer, and Cynthia Moore, Urban League Trustee and Regional Manager of Corporate Affairs for Anheuser-Busch.



Photo by Juanita M. Cole, 1994

First Annual Halloween Costume Party!!

The Urban League's Board of Trustees held its first annual Halloween Costume Party on October 28th. Over 277 people danced, had their fortunes told, won prizes and had their pictures taken for a souvenir photo.

One of the most exciting events of the evening was the costume contest. There were all kinds of creative costumes both bought and homemade. A Star Trek alien visited from outer space, Cleopatra mc'd the party, the Sorcerer tried to cast his tricky spells, the Devil and the Angel competed for the sexiest costume prize, Ronald Reagan was being politically correct and the wicked witch danced up a storm! Our featured entertainment was Miki Howard who sang some of her hits including *Love Under New Management* and *Ain't Nobody Like You*.

Next year's party promises to be greater with better entertainment, plenty of prizes, food, and the return of the fortune teller. Special thanks to Anheuser-Busch Companies for sponsoring the event and PSE&G for complimentary printing.

Welcome New Trustees

The Urban League extends a warm welcome to Samuel F. Crane, Joseph Martin and Alonda Williams, new members of the Board of Trustees.

Samuel F. Crane is president for the Regional Business Partnership (RBP). His responsibilities include program development and advocacy for RBP covering northern New Jersey. RBP provides services to small businesses, to the international trade community and to all businesses seeking to locate in the region. The RBP also undertakes special development projects in the City of Newark.

Mr. Crane was formerly the state treasurer for New Jersey. Prior to holding that position he was deputy chief of staff, Office of the Governor under the Florio administration, and director of budget and fiscal analysis in the Senate Majority Office. During his tenure with the state he was a member of the Lottery Commission, the Casino Reinvestment Development Corporation, the State Economic Development Authority, the New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency, the State Building Authority, New Jersey Performing Arts Center Corporation, and the Sports & Exposition Authority.

Mr. Crane has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in History and Social Studies from Montclair State University.

Joseph Martin is the director of government services for the northeast region of Arthur Andersen. He provides consulting assistance to state and local governments, public authorities and school districts throughout the United States.

Mr. Martin was the county manager for Union, NJ. Joe also served as county administrator for Essex County and as the first director of the Hudson River Waterfront Transportation Project.

Mr. Martin holds a B.A. and M.B.A. from Syracuse University. He completed the State and Local Government Senior Management program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He was a member of the Charter Class of Leadership NJ. He is a member of the Caldwell-West Caldwell Board of Education.

Alonda Williams is a marketing manager for Essence-By-Mail catalog, a joint venture between Essence Communications and Hanover Direct, Inc. She is responsible for developing and executing the overall marketing strategy for the 20 million dollar catalog business. She has been with the company since 1990. Prior to her employment at Essence By Mail, Alonda worked as a retail merchandiser for Liz Claiborne, inc. Additionally, she is a member of the Direct Marketing Club of NY and the National Association of Market Developers.

Mrs. Williams is committed to educating and empowering the community. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority and the READY foundation mentoring program. As an undergraduate, Alonda was instrumental in developing several programs that encouraged fellow students to become involved in community service. Mrs. Williams graduated from Montclair State University in 1990 and is currently pursuing an MBA at Rutgers Graduate School of Management.

New Workshops at the ULtra Center



Exciting changes have taken place in the ULtra Center's curriculum which will help students to perform better in the work-place and provide improved life management skills. New workshops include Cultural Diversity and Credit: What Is It & How Does It Affects Me.

Cultural Diversity Training helps students understand how to deal with a changing workforce. In today's diverse labor force employees will find themselves working with people from various cultural backgrounds. Corporate America is becoming aware of these differences and is attempting to address them. "Our workshops are designed to discover what some of our preconceptions are and how we deal with them. We can't expect others to show sensitivity to our cultural feelings without also being sensitive to others' feelings" says Karen Augustine Miller, an instructor from the ULtra Center.

Credit! Credit! What Is It and How Does It Affects Me? Part of the ULtra Center's Personal Budgeting Workshop Series includes understanding the ins and outs of credit and its function in the American economy. This workshop is designed to educate ULtra students on how to maintain a good credit rating. Students learn what credit is, how to get it, their legal rights, how to repair poor credit, and how to read a credit report. Students learn how to prepare a budget that includes saving for a home.

The ULtra Center helps welfare recipients and unemployed workers to build skills in critical thinking, communications and computer literacy. There is classroom training in WordPerfect, Lotus 1-2-3, language arts, business communication, office procedures and mathematical computation. Regular workshops include; Resume Writing, Dress For Success, Interviewing Techniques, Job Benefits and Special Guest Speaker Series.

ULtra Center's New Instructor!!

The Urban League family welcomes Deliah Allen, our latest addition to our ULtra Center staff. Ms. Allen is mainly responsible for the language arts department of the ULtra Center. She teaches grammar, writing skills and techniques, reading comprehension, auditory and oratory skills, office procedures and business communications.

She also is involved in developing and participating in the workshops.

Ms. Allen said "the reward of having a student improve his or her reading and writing skills, the reward a student receives from gaining long term employment and the reward of actually seeing improvements and grow in both living and social skills are examples of the end result; and these types of successes are far greater than the struggle of one teacher."

Ms. Allen is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH, with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English and Women's Studies. She was formerly an adjunct English professor at Essex County College and the Job Corp in Edison, NJ. She is a member of the Wildlife and Environment Club, Women's Task Force, and was a coordinator for Women's Week and Peace and Justice Week at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Our Children Need You!!

Membership supports our NULITES youth leadership program.

For a free membership brochure call
(201) 746-1543.

New On The Scene



WAYNE SMITH joined the Urban League staff as Executive Assistant for Community Affairs in September. With his talents in public affairs and corporate and media relations, Mr. Smith will assist the president with the Urban League's outreach initiatives. Mr. Smith volunteers

as a trustee with United Way Community Service Council, the American Heart Association and Program for Parents. Wayne is co-founder and chairman of the board of the Black Urban Alliance: The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Wayne previously served as aide to Michael Steele, former mayor of the Township of Irvington, Assemblyman Harry McEnroe and State Senator Ronald Rice.

Wayne is TV host of Community Dialog, a Cablevision public affairs show.

Preschool Adds New Teachers

Our Preschool/Kindergarten has begun the accreditation process with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The new preschool staff is part of that process and part of our efforts to provide quality education for our children.



photo by Eddie Salaman

JOANN GOOD is the supervisor at Avon Ave. preschool site and teaches the 2 1/2 - 3 year old class. Ms. Good earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Development from Seton Hall University, South Orange. Ms. Good has over 16 years of preschool teaching experience. She is a state certified preschool teacher

DOROTHY DICKS joined the preschool staff in June as a supervising teacher of the Littleton Ave. site. Her main responsibility is the 2 1/2 - 3 year old class at Littleton Avenue. She brings 18 years of experience to our preschool/kindergarten. Ms. Dicks is a state certified group teacher.



photo by Eddie Salaman

GOLDIE VANESSA ALSTON is the teacher for the 4 year old group at the Littleton Avenue site. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Africana Studies from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Currently, she is a candidate for a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education from Kean College. Vanessa previously worked as instructional aid, in the Red Bank public school system.



photo by Eddie Salaman

JACQUELINE ROYAL joined the preschool staff in September and is responsible for the 4 year old class at Avon Avenue. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Development from Seton Hall University, South Orange.

Thank You 1994-95 Members!!

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You Can Make A Difference....

by adopting one of the hundreds of African American children who are waiting for families of their own.

In recent years, the number of adoptive homes for African-American children has decreased sharply, particularly for boys over the age of seven and for siblings who want to stay together and who often wait the longest for homes.

If you are at least 18 years old, in good health, and want a child to love, you may be able to become an adoptive parent. Call us.

There are some requirements, but many of the previous barriers to adoption have been removed. Loving families now can come together in a number of ways.

Adoptive Parents:

can be married or single, male or female
can be childless or have children of their own
can be over 40
can work outside the home
do not have to own a home

Financial and medical assistance are available to adoptive parents of children with special needs, including a monthly maintenance subsidy, Medicaid coverage and payment of legal fees.

You or your organization can help find a home for African-American children in New Jersey. You can make a dream come true.



New Jersey Task Force to
Recruit Adoptive Homes for
African American Children

**Call 1-800-99-ADOPT
or 609-984-2382**

An initiative of the New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Youth and Family Services.

Who Should Rule the Schools?

Guest editorial by Alana R. McIntyre

The burning question on the minds of most Newarkers is should the State takeover the school system?

The question has drawn the ire of Newark Mayor Sharpe James, the Board of Education, the Municipal Council and the citizens of Newark and had raised serious issues that must be addressed. The opinion split both sides of the line.

One thing is certainly clear, no matter what side of the line you stand on, something has to be done...and quickly!

For a decade, the school system has been under investigation by the state, which contends that nothing has changed: that the Board has made no move towards improvement.

Clearly, there is a problem. Newark, the State's largest city, is allocated one of the highest spending, rates per student in the state costing

\$10,700 per year. Yet, only 25% of students district wide pass the High School Proficiency Test-HSPT.

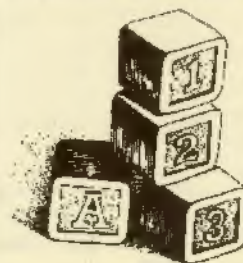
The evidence dictates that leadership at 2 Cedar Street has failed.

But the question remains, can the State do any better? Many suggest that, based on the track record earned in Paterson and Jersey City, it can not.

Whoever rules the schools must protect and provide for the future of our children. They are at the heart of this issue.

No matter who sits in charge of the system, it is THE PARENTS of the students who must make the leadership accountable. THE PARENTS of the students who must be active participants in their children's education. THE PARENTS must question why a child comes home with 20 year old books or no books at all. It is THE PARENTS who must question why there aren't computers in the schools, why teachers aren't giving homework assignments, why there wasn't heat in the building...etc. Any problem, program or shortcoming in the schools must be brought forth by the people paying for the service.

If you went to a restaurant and they didn't serve what you asked for you would at least question the server, it not the management. Why should that procedure be any different when it comes to the schooling of your children?



It is my sincere belief that suburban school districts are succeeding because the parents are actively involved in their children's education, the Parent/Teacher Associations are active and the Board of Education meetings are well attended.

What Newark needs is for the parents of the 75% of students failing the HSPT to start asking questions and demanding the service they pay for.

Ultimately, parents must hold the administration and school system accountable.

***THE PARENTS must
question why a child
comes home with 20
year old books or no
books at all.***

Homebuyers Education Seminar

Learn introductory techniques to home shopping, financial strategies, home maintenance, types of mortgages, and more.

Thursday, January 12, 1995

6pm to 8pm

Homebuyers Education Course



A 5-part series which covers everything you need to know not only to buy a house but to get more house for your money!!! You'll learn.....Types of Mortgages, Home Shopping Techniques, Financial Strategies, Budgeting, Where To Buy A House, Closing Costs, Home

Maintenance, Finding A Good Realtor, and much more!!

Earn an Urban League Homebuyers Course Certificate to help you shop for a mortgage loan.

Classes meet Tuesdays & Thursdays starting

January 17-31, 1995, 6pm to 8:30pm

\$35 per person

Seminar and course will be held at
YMCA of East Orange, 100 N. Arlington Ave.
To register call (201) 746-7725.

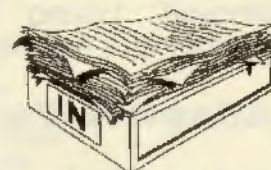
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Urban League of Essex County

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Memberships range from \$15 to \$350 and support our
NULITES youth leadership program!

If you are receiving duplicates call us or send back your label to the
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